



JULY 26, 2026
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

Photo Credit: Carol Barrett



Integrative Method of Worship

There are many styles of worship. At First Presbyterian, our worship style, generally, is a traditional reformed service with liturgy, confession and classic Christian hymnody. Even with our traditional emphasis, we believe that relevant worship in the 21st century provides space for congregants and visitors to do integrative spiritual work. By this, we mean that our daily experiences inform and affect our theology and vice versa. In worship at First Presbyterian, we are striving to integrate experience and theology so that we feel responsive and genuine in our faith as we live our daily lives. Worship planning is anchored and planned around the sermon or the sermon series. Series are planned to address any one of four areas: mission of the church, life of the church family, Biblical literacy and current relevant topics. We strive to be balanced and thoughtful in what is offered for your prayer and reflection. However, because integration and responsiveness are the goal, we will often address sensitive issues. Prayers and confessions are written by our pastor. Our children's Spirit Box time is the opportunity for children to have a choice and voice in worship. We welcome you, as you are, to each worship service at First Presbyterian. Integrative work is not easy. It is not always comfortable, but it is essential to a vital church. Please feel free to reach out to our pastor with your questions.

Statement of Mission

First Presbyterian Church of Waco, Texas, welcomes all as children of God through our worship, outreach, Christian education and congregational life events. By the liberating and compelling grace of God, and in accord with our Reformed theological heritage, we follow Jesus Christ's example by reaching out to seekers and those in need, nurturing disciples, honoring diversity and seeking to reconcile the world to God through ministries of justice and mercy.

If You Are New Here

Stop by our Welcome Center in the Narthex for information. When you are seated, please fill out the Welcome Folder you will find in the pew. After all in the pew have signed, pass it to the center aisle or use the QR code to sign in online.

These May Help During the Service (ask an usher for assistance)

- Large-print hymnal
- Hearing enhancement device
- Magnifying sheets
- Worship bags & fidget toys for children in the Narthex "parental discretion with these items, please." Please return the bag after the service.

If You Are in Need of Prayer

You will find prayer cards in the back of the pew. You may place them in the offering plate or hand them to an usher. Your prayers are confidential unless you request otherwise.

Childcare

Childcare is available from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in room S202.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30) *Count Your Blessings* Mier
(10:30) *Count Your Blessings* Miller

The lyrics to this hymn were composed in 1897 by Johnson Oatman, who wrote over 5,000 hymns of faith, and still ran the family insurance business. Count Your Many Blessings is his most famous text, based on Psalm 103:1-2.

**+ Please
rise in
body or in
spirit.**

+ Call to Worship - For the Series (Luke 7:28-31)

One: John the Baptist sent disciples to Jesus. They had a question.

Many: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

One: Jesus replied something like this: "I've been working with many people. They have been affected and strengthened."

Many: He released John's disciples, saying, "And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

One: Let us be the ones who have come to worship to strengthen the world around us in his name. Amen.

+ Hymn #744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* FESTAL SONG

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

God of our partnerships, we confess that those we have thought of as enemies have so often helped us hone our thinking. We confess that sometimes friendships can sing the lullaby of status quo or encourage us to move forward in our adventure. How we long to prayerfully hold the partnerships of our lives in their full dimension. In our partnership with you, we feel the agitation, the comfort, and the call. May we be faithful responders. This we pray remembering Christ's call and response. Amen.

**Scan and
register your
attendance,**



**or please
sign in on
the pad
located in
the pew.**

Moment of Silence

Response Hymn #341 (10:30) *O God, Show Mercy to Us* THAXTED
O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face.

Declaration of Grace & Sharing of the Peace of Christ

+ Invitation to Our Children (10:30) "*Christ Before Me*" St. Patrick's Breastplate
Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ beside me, Christ within me,
Christ in the face of those who love me

**We are
grateful for
last
week's
giving of
\$15,342.44.**

Spirit Box (8:30)
(10:30)

Marsha Alvarado
Nancy Newman

God be in my head. God be in my heart. God be on my left. God be on my right.
God be beneath me. God be above me. God be in the faces of all who love me

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:27-31 (pew Bible OT pg. 628)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. | **People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

The Lord's Prayer

Malotte

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-15 (pew Bible NT pg. 3)

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord. | **People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

+ Gloria Patri #581 (10:30)

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon In-de-pend-ence & Rugged Love: Freedom's Maturity

Leslie King, D. Min.

+ Hymn #354 (10:30) V.3

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

BATTLE HYMN

+ Affirmation of Faith - page 35 of Hymnal

Apostles' Creed

This creed, spoken together, allows us to feel, summarily, the major movement of the gospel. Speaking it allows us to be cradled in the elements of the gospel that give us the most comfort. Equally, it allows us to ponder and wonder about elements that are more challenging to understand. Our recitation of it is not a call to uniformity and conformity. Rather, it is a call to continue to explore our mysterious gospel for the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Offering (10:30)

Bringing In the Sheaves

Shaw

+ Doxology #606 (10:30)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**Venmo can
facilitate
your
offering or
designated
gift.**



+ Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30) *Sanctifying Light* James Southbridge
Leader: The Lord be with you. | **People: And also with you.**
Leader: Lift up your hearts. | **People: We lift them up to the Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ Prayers of The People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

+ Hymn #81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* AUSTRIAN HYMN

+ Charge & Benediction

Postlude: (8:30) *Come Thy Fount* Hopson
(10:30) *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus* Lowry

Sanctuary Flowers

Thank you First Pres Waco for welcoming us all the way from Kansas every Sunday. We enjoy your vibe!

Given by: Dr. William & Kathleen Murphy

Parlor Plants

Donated anonymously.



During 10:30 worship services in July, the prelude and offertory on the organ will feature late 19th-century "gospel hymn" arrangements. These historic tunes feature catchy melodies, upbeat rhythms, and quick tempos. They express joy and exuberance!



Nominating Committee:

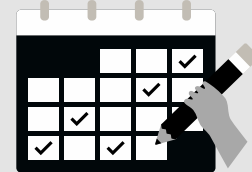
Within the Presbyterian Church, there is a season of nominating individuals to serve on the Diaconate and the Session. Your 2026 Nominating Committee will receive, review and recommend a list of nominees to be voted upon in our Annual Congregational Meeting in October. Look for more information on how to nominate a person to serve as deacon (diaconate) or elder (session) by using this QR code. Your congregational reps on the nominating committee include: Kris Olson, James Karney, Sue Patrick, Diane Williams and Charlie Stern. Meredith Palm and Sam Parler will serve as session reps.

Thank you to the Shannon & Wes Field for hosting Coffee Fellowship!

Scan the QR code to nominate!



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

26

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

9:15 a.m.

Summer Christian Formation

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

11:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

MON

27

2:00 p.m.

Worship Committee Meeting - Zoom

Online

Power of the Pen

TUE

28

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information
contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

12:00 p.m.

Taco's With Taylor - Taqueria El Mexicano Grill
1420 N Valley Mills Dr. Waco, TX 76710

5:30 p.m.

Christian Formation Committee / YAB Meeting - Zoom

6:30 p.m.

First Pres Reading Club - Lott's Home

THU

30

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information
contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

SUN

2

8:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

9:15 a.m.

Summer Christian Formation

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

11:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

FIRST PRES NEWS



Our Hybrid House is the newest committee of the Diaconate, focused on enriching our environment for hybrid worship and Zoom meetings. We are particularly interested in your opinions and experiences if you are a non-local participant of First Presbyterian. Look for our Hybrid House on August 9th. Our discussion will focus on our pets, past and present, and their personalities.



NEW BEGINNING'S SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Interested in joining a formation group but not sure which one is right for you? Join us for New Beginning's Sunday breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on August 23 at 9:15 a.m. We will introduce our fall formation classes and enjoy breakfast together.

SUMMER CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adults - "Finding Our Place"

Please join us at 9:15 A.M. as we continue our journey on Finding Our Place. We will meet in the Session Room (C-201).

Children & Youth - "Character in Characters"

Children and Youth are exploring "Character in Characters" this summer, discovering character traits through Bible stories each week. Classes begin at 9:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the Franklin Wing. Pre-K-3rd grade meets in C306, and Pre-Teen-Youth meets in C304.

CHURCH RETREAT

Church Retreat sign-ups are live! We hope you can join us at Mo-Ranch, November 6-8. We are excited to have Austin Dickson join us as our guest speaker. Austin is the CEO of the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, the organization that has led the Rebuild Kerr efforts following last year's devastating floods. We'll look forward to time together in the Hill Country this November.

Sign-ups close August 6, 2026.



FIRST PRES BOOK CLUB

Like to read? Like to discuss the books you've read? Every third month, a lively group gathers on a Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. to participate in rich conversation about topical books (both fiction and nonfiction). Jackie Lott coordinates this group. Call the Church office for more information. The next gathering is July 28, 2026 and our book is *Trust* by Hernan Diaz.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.FIRSTPRESWACO.ORG
OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @FIRSTPRESWACO



Staff

Pastor	Leslie King, D. Min. (lking@firstpreswaco.org)
Director of Congregational Life	Taylor Holleyman, Ph.D (tholleyman@firstpreswaco.org)
Operations Manager	Shane Montoya, MBA (office@firstpreswaco.org)
Director of Christian Formation	Malorie Montoya (dcf@firstpreswaco.org)
Office Assistant	Kyle Plaskett (officeassist@firstpreswaco.org)
Chancel Choir Director	Austin Ingalls (chancelchoir@firstpreswaco.org)
Handbell Director	Amy Goodman, Ph. D (amy_goodman@baylor.edu)
Organist	Becky Ward, M.M. (vward@hot.rr.com)
Pianist (8:30 a.m. service)	Trisha Anderson (trishaanderson0926@gmail.com)
Nursery Coordinator	Chelley Breemes (bigcatz2000@yahoo.com)
Parish Associate for Theology & Ethics	Dr. Neil Messer (Neil_Messere@baylor.edu)
Church Historian	Katelyn Jaynes, Ph. D (kljaynes204@gmail.com)
Parish Associate for Gerontology	Jim Ellor, D. Min. Ph. D, H.R. (james_ellor@baylor.edu)
Streaming Team	Ben Bruton, James Karney, Amanda Lassetter, Thomas Munn, Adam Redmer
Custodian	Adriana Goytortu

Organizational Officers

Clerk of Session	Ken Kuhns
Church Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer	Mark Harren, Donna Black
First Presbyterian Church Foundation	President - Chuck Weaver, Carr DuPuy, Carol Miller, Malorie Montoya, Charles Stern
Forman Fund	David Smith, Phil Hering, Cathy McPhee, Patsy Norman
Presbyterian Women	Susan Somerville, Sherry Cragen, Mary Lynn Klingman and Sue Young
Sanctuary Guild	Sharon Stern, Michael Muehlenbein
Sanctuary Flowers	Brenda Stephens, Susan Somerville, Kathy Jones
Celebration Way	Cary DuPuy

Session Committee Members

Administration Committee	Lyndon Olson, Roane Lacy, Mike Morrison
Christian Formation Committee	Shannon Field, Anita Karney
Congregational Life Committee	Ryan Joyner, Marsha Alvarado, Kathryn Delk
Facilities Committee	Hunter Harren, Mark Anderson, Christine Miller, James Hill, Bob Cragen
Finance Committee	Donna Black, Phil Hering, Chip Somerville
Outreach Committee	Lenore Wright, Sam Parler, Brenda Stephens
Personnel Committee	Chuck Weaver, Todd Ehlers
Worship Committee	Esther Lee, Meredith Palm

Diaconate Committee Members

Diaconate Moderator	Bricker Bruner
Diaconate Secretary	Christine Huston
Agape Committee	All Deacons
Our Hybrid House	Jeremy Mercer, Dave Reagan, Jen Ferretter, Avery Kerley, Cynthia Perry, Marilyn Harren, Zdzislaw Wieckowski
Power of the Pen	Katie Valenzuela, Scott Wagner, Melanie Cook, Helen Harris, Peggy Graham
Prayer Committee	Drew Risinger, Toni Percivill, John Jovicich, Kathy Jones
Stork Committee	Mike McPhee, Jerry Barrett, Kevin Bartley
Ushering Coordinator	Wes Field



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WACO, TEXAS
1100 Austin Ave. - Waco, TX 76701 - 254.752.1665 - www.firstpreswaco.org
Church Office Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Sunday Services 8:30 A.M. (Weekly Communion) and 10:30 A.M. (Morning Worship)
Pastor - Leslie King

